

REMARKS

Claims 22-39 are currently pending in this application. The Office Action states that the pending claims are drawn to the following inventions pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 121:

Group I: claims 22-27, drawn to a method for controlling rate of oxygen transfer;

Group II: claims 28-34 and 39, drawn to a container assembly; and

Group III: claims 35-38, drawn to a barrier member.

Applicants respectfully traverse this restriction requirement. However, in order to advance prosecution of the Application, Applicant elects the invention of Group I for prosecution on the merits, corresponding to claims 22-27.

A restriction requirement based on distinction is proper if the inventions are distinct and a serious burden on the Examiner exists in examining the application. Applicant respectfully submits that no serious burden exists in examining all of the claims in the application.

If for any reason the Examiner believes that an interview, either telephonically or in person, would advance prosecution of the application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned to arrange an interview.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the restriction requirement and allowance of all of the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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